Return to the Crescent City

After returning to New Orleans, the legislature endured the cramped quarters of the *Ursuline Convent*. A year later, government offices relocated to the spacious *Charity Hospital*. Meanwhile, the growing population of New Orleans continued to threaten rural interests. Despite the failed move to Donaldsonville, the desire to relocate the capital remained.

The constitution created during the 1845 convention reflected a shift in political power toward rural interests. The new constitution required the capital relocate no less than 60 miles from New Orleans. Because Louisiana's roads were abysmal, the Mississippi remained the state's crucial mode of transportation; this left Baton Rouge as the only suitable candidate. In 1847, the legislature approved the architect (James Dakin) and appropriated money for the project. With the inauguration of Joseph Walker in 1850, the capital officially relocated to Baton Rouge.

Is That a Fact?
- The Charity Hospital was built in 1815 to provide health care for the poor.
- In the 1840's, New Orleans was the fourth largest city in U.S. It would become the third by the early 1850's.
- The state government remained in the Charity Hospital for 17 years—the longest period in one place at that time.

The Old Ursuline Convent 1831

The Governor serving here was Andre B. Roman.

Charity Hospital 1831-1849

Governors serving here were Andre B. Roman, Edward D. White, Alexandre Mouton, and Isaac Johnson.

"Art. 112. The General Assembly . . . shall, within the first month after the commencement of the session, designate and fix the seat of government at some place not less than sixty miles from the city of New Orleans, by the nearest travelling route, and if on the Mississippi river, by meanders of the same; and when so fixed, it shall not be removed without the consent of four-fifths of the members of both Houses of the General Assembly. The sessions shall be held in New Orleans until the end of the year 1848."

-Article 112 of the 1845 Louisiana Constitution